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h. Murga-
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Frank J. Jordan
(Name of Registered Representative)

 05/02/01
(Signature and Date)

Assistant Commissioner
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Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

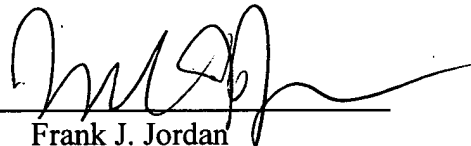
Attached hereto is a copy of a Japanese Official Action dated April 3, 2001, along with an English translation thereof, Form PTO-1449 and copies of the two cited references listed therein.

Also enclosed is a copy of a European Search Report dated April 11, 2001, along with Form PTO-1449 and copies of the five cited references listed therein.

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement. Thus this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of the Japanese Office Action dated April 3, 2001 and within three months of the European Search Report in the counterpart foreign application. Accordingly, even though the first Official Action issued, there is no charge for filing this IDS as provided in 37 CFR 1.97(c).

Respectfully submitted,

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